

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 are independent claims. Independent claim 1 has been amended. Independent claim 2 has been subject to a restriction. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112, First Paragraph

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. This rejection is hereby traversed for the following reasons.

The Examiner asserts that claim 1 and the specification do not enable one of ordinary skill how to use the forward and backward movement groove. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the forward movement groove and the backward movement groove are in communication with one another at both ends of the shaft, thereby forming a continuous or endless track. Accordingly, one skilled in the art can easily ascertain that the feeder can switch between the forward movement groove and the backward movement groove at both ends of the shaft.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is hereby traversed for the following reasons.

The Examiner asserts that the limitation “a motor is installed in a post of both sides fixed to a transmission” is unclear. As seen in Fig. 2, a first and second motor 18 are installed on each side of a post 19 that is fixed to a transmission. Both the specification and claim 1 have been amended above to more clearly define the relationship between the two motors 18 and the post 19 in the manner shown in Fig. 2. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

The recitation of first and second motors overcomes the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 on the basis that it omits an essential element. In addition, proper antecedent basis has been provided for the fixing pins in lines 12 and 13 of claim 1.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deidewig, USP 6,205,880, in view of Edelen, USP 5,219,391. This rejection is hereby traversed for the following reasons.

Turning to the claims, claim 1 sets forth an automatic transmission engaged in a manual transmission for operating a selector lever 2 and a shift lever 3 installed in a control shaft of a manual transmission. The automatic transmission engaged in the manual transmission is characterized in that first and second motors 18 are installed on each side of a post 19 fixed to a transmission. A first shaft 10 and a second shaft 10a having a forward movement guide groove 12 and a backward movement guide groove 14 are provided in the motors 18. Feeders 20 and 20a, each having a connection pin 22 with a rectangular hole 24, are assembled in such a manner that the feeders 20 and 20a are linearly moved along the forward and backward movement guide grooves when the first and second shafts are rotated. The feeder 20 assembled to the first shaft 1 is connected with a fixing pin 2a of the selector lever and the feeder 20a assembled to the second shaft is connected with a fixing pin 3a of the shift lever 3. In this way the functionality of an automatic transmission is achieved by mounting additional parts to a conventional manual transmission.

Deidewig simply shows the general structure of a conventional manual transmission. In particular, both a fixing pin (13) of the selector lever (10) and a fixing pin (14) of the shift lever (11) are parts that are conventional in a transmission.

The Examiner asserts that Edelen shows the remaining elements of claim 1 that are missing from Deidewig, including the claimed connection pins each having a rectangular hole to connect to a fixing pin. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the linearly moving feeders 30 and 38 shown in Edelen have a connection pin located at their base and that this connection pin has a rectangular hole. Applicants fail to see such a pin. As best Applicants can discern, the only

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pins visible in Fig. 2 that are associated with feeders 30 and 38 extend from each feeder into rectangular holes in position-measuring feedback devices 48 and 50, which are used to measure the distance of each feeder along its respective shaft. Accordingly, the pins extending from the feeders 30 and 38 do not have a rectangular hole, as required by claim 1. Rather, the rectangular holes are formed in the position-measuring feedback devices 48 and 50. As a result, the rectangular hole shown in Edelen cannot perform the function of the rectangular hole set forth in claim 1, which is to uniformly maintain the center distance between the control shaft (1) and the fixing pin when the feeder (20a) performs a forward and backward movement.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes there are still unresolved issues, a telephone call to the undersigned would be welcomed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT